

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2015

DRAFT

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on July 15, 2015, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- L.T. Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- James Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett Jr, Military Order of the World Wars
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Terry Labar, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Daniel Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Donald Kaiserman, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Steven Combs, representing the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- Matt Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Tom Stephen, Association of the United States Army
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America
- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Chip Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Kelly Thomasson Mercer, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Jennifer Sayegh, Assistant Director of Appointments, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Senior Assistant Attorney General Cindy Norwood
- Leslie Frazier, Policy Director, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Rachael Sharp, Governor's Fellow, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Matt Leary, Department of Motor Vehicles
- Christine Barrille, Department of Military Affairs
- Glendalynn Glover, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Jon Hatfield, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, DVS
- Robert Paylor, DVS
- Judy Reid, DVS
- Andrew Schwartz, DVS
- Annie Walker, DVS

Others Present

- Thad Jones, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
- Ann Stone, National Trust for our Wounded (NTW)
- Steve Hasty, NTW
- Lee Upright, Student Veterans of William & Mary
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Brett Reistad, former American Legion representative to the JLC
- Carmen Gentile, former Reserve Officers Association representative to the JLC
- Shawn Otto, former Virginia National Guard Association representative to the JLC
- Mr. Ralph Patete, guest of Mr. Rich Rinaldo
- Ms. Curstina Jennings, guest of Mr. Curtis Jennings

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Draft Minutes of May 20, 2015 meeting (Agenda Item III)

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation
- Department of Veterans Services

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Proposed 2016 JLC Initiatives
 - 01 MOAA: DVS Benefits Services
 - 02 MOAA: Virginia Veteran and Family Support
 - 03 MOAA: Virginia War Memorial
 - 04 MOAA: Court dockets for Veterans
 - 05 MOAA: Electronic Return of Overseas Ballots
 - FRA 2016-01: VMSDEP
- JLC 2016 Initiatives – tracking sheet

Items distributed at the meeting

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Proposed 2016 JLC Initiatives
 - Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association proposal: State Tax Exemption of \$5,000 for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen
 - Air Force Association: Veterans Care Centers
 - Virginia National Guard Association: in-state tuition eligibility
- Information paper about the Armed Services Arts Partnership

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item I)

Acting Chairman Stu Williams called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Orientation (Agenda Item IV)

Because the new members had not yet been sworn in, Acting Chairman Williams asked Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs to introduce everyone present and to deliver the orientation. The names of those present are recorded above.

Mr. Combs delivered the orientation. He gave the history of the JLC and explained the importance of this body as the voice for Virginia's VSOs and the veterans they represent. He reviewed the handbook that was given to each VSO. He encouraged each member to review the material in the handbook so that they will become more familiar with the JLC organization, procedure and focus. The presentation was distributed to the members by e-mail following the meeting.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests (Agenda Item II)

The newly appointed/reappointed JLC members were sworn in by Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson Mercer.

The roll was called, and 21 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Matt Dailey and Mr. Perry Taylor arrived later, bringing the total to 23 of 23 VSOs. Mr. Don Kaiserman, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Rich Schollmann, representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, representing Commissioner John Newby of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), were recorded as present.

Mr. Abe Zino made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Huffman, to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Harold Barton made a **substitute motion, seconded** by Mr. Richard Mansfield, to add Item VII.e. to the agenda, relating to the real estate tax exemption. The **substitute motion** carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

Approve May 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item III)

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Tim Whitmore to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2015 meeting as drafted. The **motion** carried **unanimously**.

Presentation - Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program (Agenda Item V)

Mrs. Annie Walker, Director, DVS Veterans Education, Training, and Employment (VETE) division, and Mr. Andrew Schwartz, DVS V3 Program Manager delivered a presentation on the V3 Program. The presentation was distributed to the members by e-mail following the meeting.

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS)

BVS Chairman Don Kaiserman gave the BVS report (see Attachment 2).

b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)

VSF 1st Vice Chairman Rich Schollmann gave the VSF report (see Attachment 3).

c. Department of Veterans Services (DVS)

DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs delivered the DVS report (see Attachment 4).

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

a. Review, discuss, adopt, and prioritize 2016 JLC Initiatives

Nine initiatives were presented for consideration as 2016 JLC Initiatives, with this format being followed:

- VSO representative presented the proposal
- Questions and statements from JLC members
- Requests for modifications or additions to some papers (to which the proposers agreed)
- Motion and second, followed by discussion (for motions to adopt)
- Vote
- After the proposals were presented, the members prioritized the initiatives by consensus

JLC 2016 Initiatives

Subject	Proposed by	Motion	Motion made by	Motion seconded by	Vote	Adopted	Priority
DVS Benefits Services	MOAA	To adopt as JLC 2016 initiative	Williams (MOAA)	Boyer (VFW)	Unanimous	Yes	2
Fund Virginia Wounded Warrior Program	MOAA	To adopt	Barton (AFA)	Boyer (VFW)	Unanimous	Yes	3
Virginia War Memorial	MOAA	To adopt	Williams (MOAA)	Herbert (LOV)	Unanimous	Yes	4
Court Dockets for Veterans	MOAA	To table	Mansfield (AMVETS)	Dennison (NAUS)	15-8	No – tabled	N/A
Electronic Return of Voted Ballots by Overseas Military	MOAA	To adopt	Barton (AFA)	Whitmore (KWVA)	Unanimous	Yes	8
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program	FRA	To adopt	Zino (FRA)	Whitmore (KWVA)	21-2	Yes	7
State tax exemption for National Guard	VaA/ANGEA	To adopt	Montgomery (VVA)	Zino (FRA)	Unanimous	Yes	6
Veterans Care Centers	AFA	To adopt	Zino (FRA)	Barrett (MOWW)	Unanimous	Yes	1
National Guard – in state tuition eligibility	VNGA	To adopt	Mansfield (AMVETS)	Provost (VNGA)	Unanimous	Yes	5

Abbreviations

MOAA = Military Officers Association of America

VFW = Veterans of Foreign Wars

AFA = Air Force Association

LOV = Legion of Valor

FRA = Fleet Reserve Association

VaA/ANGEA = Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

NAUS = National Association for Uniformed Services

KWVA = Korean War Veterans Association

VVA = Vietnam Veterans of America

MOWW = Military Order of the World Wars

VNGA = Virginia National Guard Association

b. Appoint sponsor VSOs for 2016 JLC Initiatives

This agenda item was deferred to the October meeting

c. Adopt new date for December 2015 meeting

The members agreed, by consensus, that the December meeting would be held on the 18th.

d. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Acting Chairman Williams recognized Mr. Carmen Gentile, former JLC member and former Chairman of the JLC Nominating Committee. Mr. Gentile stated that, at the May 20 meeting, Mr. Harold Barton had expressed a willingness to be considered for the position of JLC Chair, while Ms. Marie Juliano had expressed a willingness to be considered for the position of JLC Vice Chair. He said that no other members had expressed an interest at the May 20 meeting in serving as Chair or Vice Chair. He said that the Nominating Committee recommended Mr. Barton for the position of Chair and Ms. Juliano for the position of Vice Chair.

Acting Chairman Williams asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he closed nominations and called for a vote. The members **voted unanimously** to elect Mr. Barton as JLC Chair and Ms. Juliano as JLC Vice Chair.

e. Promulgation of rules for real estate tax exemption for disabled veterans

Mr. Barton asked that this item be deferred to the October meeting.

f. Other new business and open discussion

There were no other items of new business or discussion.

Public Comment (Agenda Item VIII)

Ms. Lee Upright, Student Veterans of William & Mary, distributed a paper about the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) and its founder, W&M graduate student Mr. Sam Pressler.

Closing Remarks (Agenda Item IX)

Acting Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next meeting will be held October 21 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Adjournment (Agenda Item X)

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Meeting
Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere St, Richmond
July 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- g. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Stu Williams, JLC Acting Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- h. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Stu Williams, JLC Acting Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- i. Approve May 20, 2015 meeting minutes – *Stu Williams, JLC Acting Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- j. Orientation – *Steven Combs, DVS Deputy Commissioner* (10:15 – 11:15)
- k. Presentation: Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program – *Annie Walker, Director, DVS/VETE* and *Andrew Schwartz, DVS V3 Program Manager* (11:15 – 11:35)
- l. Reports (11:35 – 11:50)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF 1st Vice Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Steven Combs, DVS Deputy Commissioner* (5 minutes)

LUNCH (11:50 – 12:30)

- m. New business – *Stu Williams, JLC Acting Chairman* (12:30 – 1:50)
 - a. Review, discuss, adopt, and prioritize 2016 JLC Initiatives (60 minutes)
 - b. Appoint sponsors VSOs for 2016 JLC Initiatives (3 minutes)
 - c. Adopt new date for December 2015 meeting (2 minutes)
 - d. Elect Chair and Vice Chair (10 minutes)
 - e. Promulgation of rules for real estate tax exemption for disabled veterans
 - f. Other new business and open discussion (5 minutes)
- n. Public comment period (1:50 – 1:55)
- o. Closing remarks and prepare for next meeting – *Stu Williams, JLC Acting Chairman* (1:55 – 2:00)
- p. Adjourn (2:00)

ATTACHMENT 2

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations July 15, 2015

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on May 12, 2015. The results of this meeting and BVS committee meetings held in April were reported to the JLC on May 20, 2015.

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. All are important to the Board's success. Citizen members drive the work of the committees, which advance issues to the entire Board, while the legislative and *ex officio* members work hard to ensure those ideas gain the support of the Governor and General Assembly.

The legislative members of the Board of Veterans Services worked diligently to ensure the passage of important veteran- and military-related legislation and budget items during the 2015 session, working in close partnership with the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John Harvey, and Governor Terry McAuliffe.

Delegate Rich Anderson and Senator Bryce Reeves co-chaired the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus. Senator Toddy Puller's SB675 and SB676 created a new funding pathway for the planned veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. These bills, and the companion House bills, had the unanimous support of the General Assembly. Delegate Chris Stolle's HB1641 requires state agencies, to the maximum extent possible, to become certified under the DVS Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program. Senator Reeves' SB1354 directs the creation of a military-related student identifier, while Delegate Anderson's budget amendments added funding for veterans education programs at George Mason University. Finally, Delegate Mamye BaCote's HB2018 adds three citizen members to the Board of Veterans Services (increasing from 11 to 14). Appointments are expected to be made in the near future.

The BVS will hold its next meeting on July 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations July 15, 2015

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held no meetings since last JLC meeting.

For the new members of the JLC, the following information summarizes what has happened at the last two Foundation Trustees meetings.

- (1) Reports were received from the Chairmen of the JLC, BVS (Board of Veterans Services), and the DVS Commissioner;
- (2) Update briefings were provided by the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, and the Veterans Transition Program;
- (3) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY15;
- (4) Approved the 2nd and 3rd Quarter FY15 VSF Financial Reports;
- (5) Approved VSF-DVS FY16 Budget;
- (6) Approved an update of the Trustees Bylaws and DVS-VSF MOU;
- (7) Approved the new VSF-DVS Joint Policy #11, Planned Giving;
- (8) Adopted a FY15 VSF Milestone Plan (Attached); and
- (9) Appointed a Nominating Committee and elected officers for FY16, who are;
Chair, Brad Antle
1st Vice Chair, Rich Schollmann
2nd Vice Chair, Al Pianalto

The final financial reports for FY15 have not been completed as yet, but it is estimated that the Foundation has received donations during FY15 of about \$600,000, of which over \$400,000 is for VWWP. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The next Board of Trustees' meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2015 at the American Legion Building on Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond. Items for the next meeting include: (1) approval of the Final Quarter FY15 Financial Statement; (2) approval of an updated VSF-DVS Joint Policy #3, Fundraising; (3) review FY16 Goals and Objectives; (4) review VSF Website updates; (5) appointment of committee chairs for FY16; and (6) confirm Trustees meeting dates and locations for FY16.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Antle
VSF Chairman

Attachments: (1) VSF FY16 Milestone Plan

VSF Milestones FY16*

July 1, 2015

Board Officers assume duties

August 5 meeting (American Legion)**

Review FY15 Goals and Objectives

Consider Goals and Objectives for FY16

Approve 4th Quarter FY15 Financial Statement

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, as required

Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs

Approval of Committee Chair/Vice Chair appointments

Approve tentative dates and locations (if available for 2016)

November 4 meeting (American Legion)**

Approve 1st Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Approve Bylaws and MOU changes, if any

March 14, 2016

Request Budget input for FY17 due April 15

March 30 meeting (TBD)

Approve 2nd Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Confirm dates and locations of 2016 Board meetings

Elect a nominating committee

April 4

Nominating Committee put out call for candidates for officers' positions

May 4 meeting (TBD)***

Approve 3rd Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve FY17 budget

Elect officers for FY17

*At all meetings, as appropriate, receive VWWP, V3, and other DVS activity updates.

**In odd numbered years review all VSF-DVS Policies, Bylaws, and MOU

***In Odd numbered years, receive report on APA audit, if available

ATTACHMENT 4

Memorandum for: Acting Chairman Stu Williams
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: John L. Newby II, Commissioner

Date: July 15, 2015

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

Your Department of Veterans Services continues to “move out” on multiple fronts:

- Benefit Services: in June and July, DVS brought on board 20 new veterans service representatives (VSRs) – 10 internal promotions, 10 new hires; this brings the number of VSRs from 36 at the start of FY15 to 60 at the start of FY16. Also hired were two regional managers and one veterans service administrator. The new Chesapeake office opened in June; work continues on locations for the new offices in Fredericksburg and Petersburg.
- Ending Veterans Homelessness: over 750 homeless veterans have been housed since November 2014. The 2nd Annual *Ending Veterans Homelessness* Summit was held June 17. A Veteran Homelessness Bootcamp and kick-off for a *100-Day Challenge* in the Crater Planning District will be held July 31.
- Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program: the new *V3 Veteran Employment Grant* program launched July 1. The first grants will be awarded later this month.
- Veterans care centers: the new 40-bed *Richmond Wing* of the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center was dedicated July 8. The first residents will be admitted next week. Localities have nominated sites for consideration for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia centers. Evaluation will begin in the near future.
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) will become the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program on October 1. In FY15, VVFS delivered over 7,500 individual services to veterans and families (compared to 5,606 in FY14).
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has given initial approval of the DVS grant request for phase expansion at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk). The project will be considered for VA funding in FFY16.